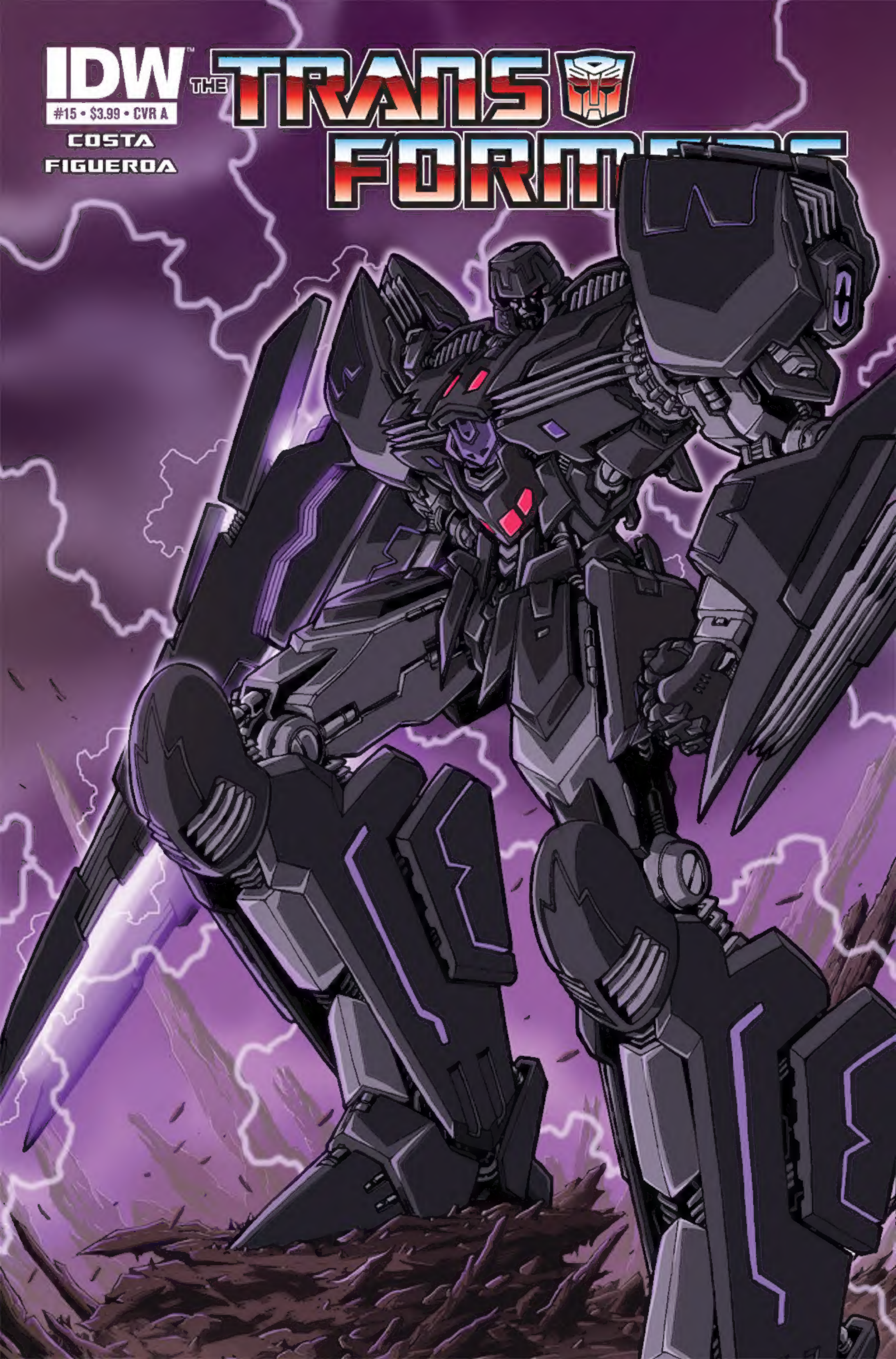
IDW

#15 • $3.99 • CVR A

COSTA

FIGUEROA

THE TRANSFORMERS



IDW

#15 • $3.99 • CVR B

COSTA
FIGUEROA

THE TRANSFORMERS

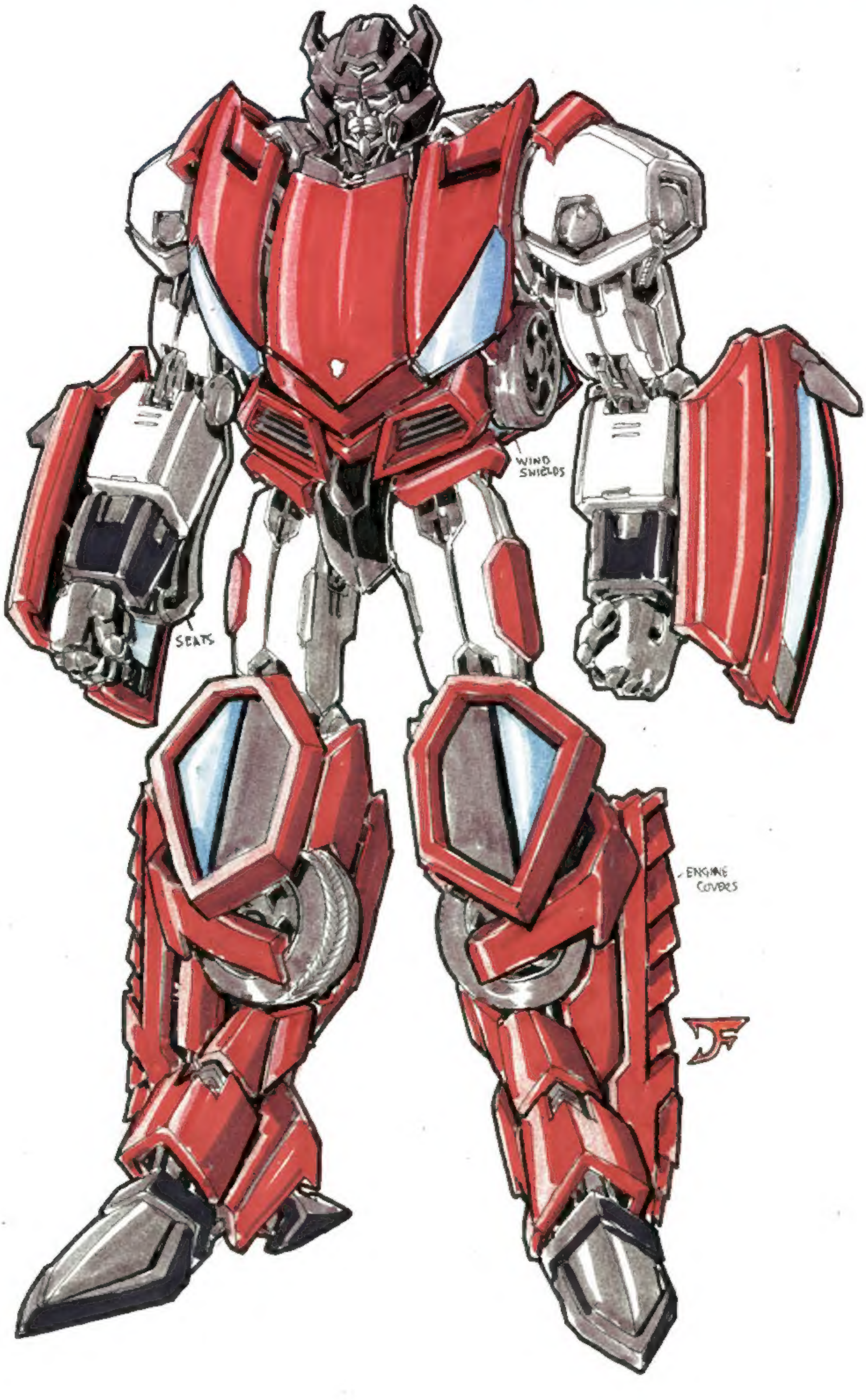
IDW™

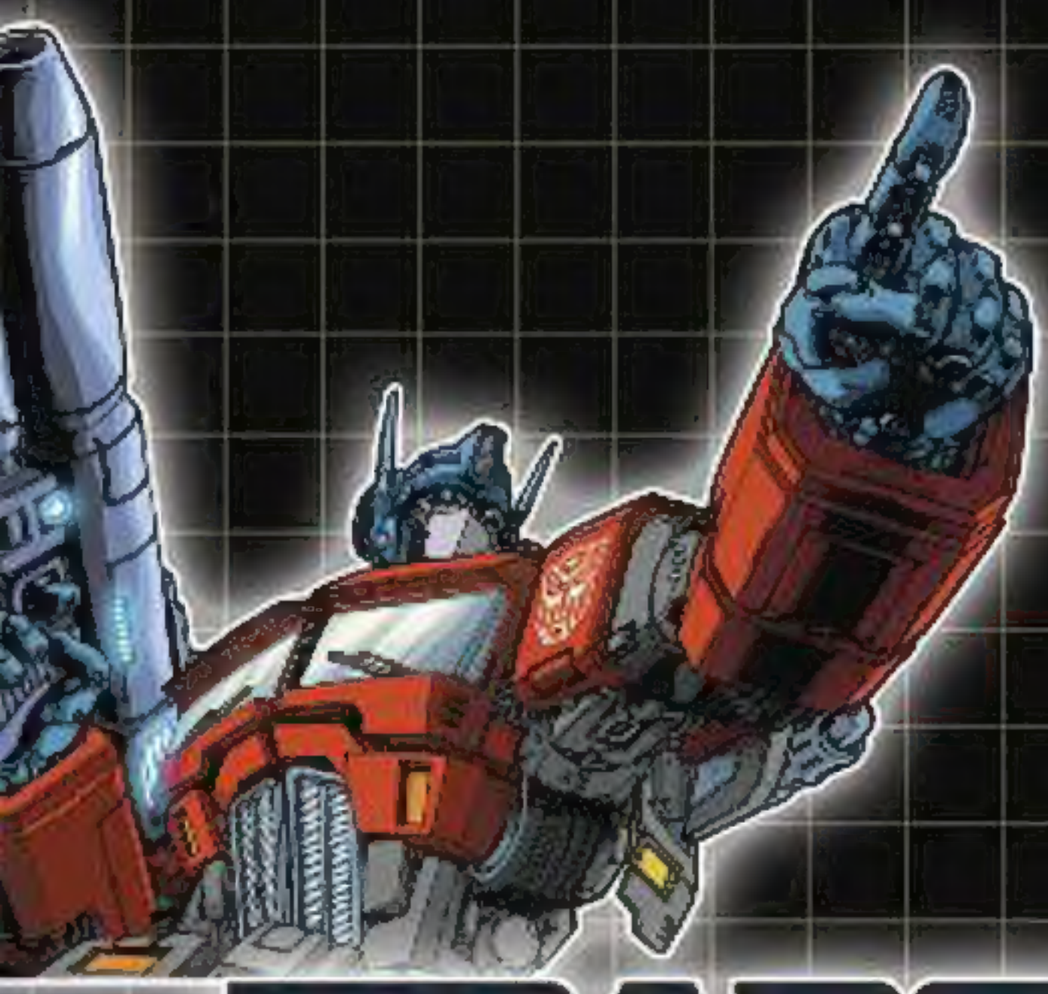
#15 • CVR RI

COSTA

FIGUEROA

THE TRANSFORMERS





ISSUE #15 CREDITS

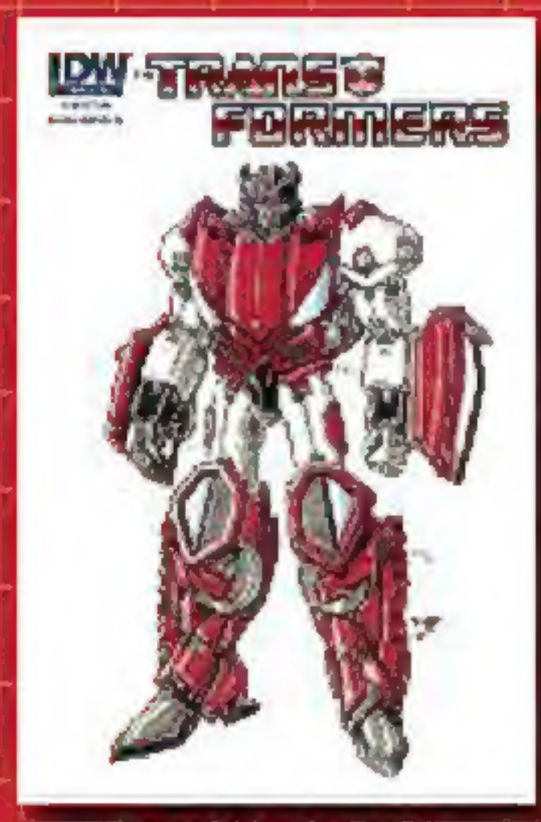
Written by: MIKE COSTA
Art by: DON FIGUEROA
Colors by: ANDREW DALHOUSE
Letters by: CHRIS MOWRY
Assistant Editor: CARLOS GUZMAN
Editor: ANDY SCHMIDT

THE TRANSFORMERS

COVER CHECKLIST:

COVER A
ART BY DON FIGUEROA
COLORS BY J. BROWN

COVER B
ART BY NICK ROCHE
COLORS BY J. BROWN



COVER RI
ART BY DON FIGUEROA

STORY SO FAR:

The story so far for this issue goes right here... and here, too.

Licensed By:

Special thanks to Hasbro's Aaron Archer, Michael Kelly, Amie Lozanski, Ed Lane, Michael Provost, Val Roca, Erin Hillman, Jos Huxley, Samantha Lomow, and Michael Verrecchia for their invaluable assistance.

www.IDWPUBLISHING.com

THE TRANSFORMERS #15. JANUARY 2011. FIRST PRINTING. HASBRO and its logo, TRANSFORMERS, and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. © 2011 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 5080 Santa Fe Street, San Diego, CA 92109. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Printed in Korea.
IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

Operations: Ted Adams, CEO & Publisher • Greg Goldstein, Chief Operating Officer • Matthew Ruzicka, CPA, Chief Financial Officer • Alan Payne, VP of Sales • Lorelei Bunjes, Director of Digital Services • Jeff Webber, Director of ePublishing • AnnaMaria White, Dir., Marketing and Public Relations • Dirk Wood, Dir., Retail Marketing • Marci Hubbard, Executive Assistant • Alonzo Simon, Shipping Manager • Angela Loggins, Staff Accountant • Cherrie Go, Assistant Web Designer • Editorial: Chris Ryall, Chief Creative Officer, Editor-In-Chief • Scott Dunbier, Senior Editor, Special Projects • Andy Schmidt, Senior Editor • Justin Eisinger, Senior Editor, Books • Kris Oprisko, Editor/Foreign Lic. • Denton J. Tipton, Editor • Tom Waltz, Editor • Mariah Huehner, Editor • Carlos Guzman, Assistant Editor • Bobby Curnow, Assistant Editor • Design: Robbie Robbins, EVP/Sr. Graphic Artist • Neil Uyetake, Senior Art Director • Chris Mowry, Senior Graphic Artist • Amauri Osorio, Graphic Artist • Gilberto Lazcano, Production Assistant • Shawn Lee, Graphic Artist

I'D LIKE TO GET BACK TO THE SUBJECT OF PEOPLE USING YOUR ONLINE COMMUNITY FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF WEAPONRY.

PEOPLE USE THE COMMUNITY TO EXCHANGE ALL MANNER OF INFORMATION THAT COULD BE CRUCIAL TO SURVIVAL IN ANOTHER ATTACK.

BASIC FIRST-AID, INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO BUILD CRUDE RADIOS, FIELD-GUIDE INFORMATION ON EDIBLE FLORA AND FUNGI—

AND WEAPONS.

—PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO DEFEND THEMSELVES. AS I SAID, THERE ARE NO LAWS PROHIBITING THE SALE AND TRADE OF THESE DEVICES.

YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I SUGGEST THAT SEEMS A BIT OBTUSE.

NO, NINA. I WOULD SAY THAT IT'S THE *PRESIDENT* WHO SEEMS OBTUSE ON THIS SUBJECT.

LESS THAN A WEEK AGO, OUR PRESIDENT DENOUNCED THE COLLUSION OF ANY WORLD GOVERNMENTS WITH EXTRATERRESTRIALS, AND STATED THAT SUCH A RELATIONSHIP WAS AKIN TO STOCKPILING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. AND I APPLAUDED THAT SPEECH.

BUT HARDLY FIVE DAYS LATER, IT'S REVEALED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ALLIED WITH THESE INVADERS FOR SOME TIME—

—PERHAPS SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING, SINCE NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW—

—AND NOW WE AS A COUNTRY ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A VERY HUGE TANGLE BECAUSE OF IT. THERE HAS YET TO BE ANY EXPLANATION.

ONE COULD ARGUE THAT THE EXPLANATION WAS CUT SHORT BY A GUNMAN TODAY.

I DON'T ACCEPT SPEECHES BY EXTRATERRESTRIALS ON U.S. POLICY. IS THAT REALLY WHAT WE'VE COME TO? FRANKLY, THAT'S INSANE.

INTERESTING YOU SHOULD BRING THAT UP...

...INITIAL REPORTS FROM GLADKI'S FAMILY SEEM TO INDICATE THAT HE WAS HEARING VOICES FROM THE TELEVISION AND THE RADIO. VOICES THAT MAY HAVE COMPELLED HIM TO DO WHAT HE DID.

I'M NOT SURE I TAKE YOUR POINT.

THE VOICES APPARENTLY STARTED JUST AFTER HE PROCURED THE WEAPON VIA YOUR WEBSITE'S ORGANIZATION. AS UNTESTED TECHNOLOGY, IS IT POSSIBLE THE EQUIPMENT ACTUALLY MADE HIM UNSTABLE?

NINA, PLEASE. THAT'S JUST RIDICULOUS FEAR-MONGERING. THERE ARE LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY WHO OWN SUCH DEVICES, AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF MENTAL ILLNESS.

WHICH SHOULD SERVE AS A WARNING TO OUR WOULD-BE CONQUERORS, AND AS AN ASSURANCE TO ANY CITIZEN WHO MIGHT FEEL UNSAFE DUE TO THE RECKLESS AND, FRANKLY, ***ANTI-HUMAN*** POLICIES OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT.

LIKE ANY GUN, IF YOU HANDLE IT PROPERLY, THESE WEAPONS ARE PERFECTLY SAFE.

REVENGE OF THE DECEPTICONS PART 2: ALTERED CARBON

HE WOULD EVACUATE THE CHAMBER WHEN HE WANTED TO THINK.

METHANE AND AMMONIA SEEPED OUT OF THE ARID ROCK'S HEART LIKE A MURMUR OF DEATH. MEGATRON DISPELLED THEM TO BE ALONE IN THE VACUUM.

WOUNDED WARTIME GENERAL, CARRIED CRITICAL FROM THE BATTLEFIELD.

FOR NEARLY THREE OF EARTH'S YEARS, HE'D BEEN THE CENTER OF CONSTANT ACTIVITY.

TENDED IN TRIAGE DURING THE LONG TRIP TO NOWHERE.

HIS ONCE-FEARSOME WAR MACHINE COLLAPSING AROUND HIM.

AND HE COULD ONLY WATCH, HELPLESS. A SINGLE EMBER OF HATE GLOWING UNDER ASH.

IT WAS ALMOST A FULL EARTH YEAR AFTER THEY'D ARRIVED ON THE ASTEROID BEFORE SOUNDWAVE FINALLY REALIZED THAT SALVAGING MEGATRON'S BODY WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.

HE DISCONNECTED IT FROM LIFE SUPPORT, AND DRAGGED IT AWAY AS IT TWITCHED IN SYNAPTIC COLLAPSE. A DANCE OF DEATH.

THEN THE REAL WORK BEGAN.

SHOCKWAVE, I DEMAND TO SEE THE RESULTS OF YOUR WORK.

STARSCREAM, WHEN WE ARRIVED HERE, I WAS PROMISED ISOLATION FOR MY WORK.

THAT WAS BEFORE MY SOLDIERS BEGAN *CANNIBALIZING* EACH OTHER. YOU'VE HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME TO DEVELOP A NEW SPACE BRIDGE, AND IF WE DON'T GET OFF OF THIS ROCK *SOON*, WE'LL—

—SOUNDWAVE... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHO ELSE IS THAT BACK THERE?

IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU LEFT, STARSCREAM.

STARSCREAM DIDN'T GET TO WHERE HE WAS BY BEING STUPID.

HAVE YOU ALL GONE *MAD*?

IMMEDIATELY SEIZING CONTROL OF HIS HONEST SHOCK, HE SLIPPED GEARS SEAMLESSLY INTO PRACTICED OUTRAGE.

YOU'VE BUTCHERED MEGATRON AND MADE FROM HIS BODY SOME SORT OF GHOULISH ARMS CACHE?

THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING INSTEAD OF BUILDING MY SPACE BRIDGE?! SLAUGHTERING OUR HELPLESS COMMANDER AND PLOTTING A COUP?!

MEGATRON WAS DEAD AND TRUE LEADERSHIP WAS IN HIS GRASP. BUT THINGS WOULD HAVE TO BE FINESSED JUST PERFECTLY.

PUT THOSE WEAPONS *DOWN!*

THE KILLERS MUST BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. STARSCREAM MUST BE HEROIC IN HIS REMORSE AND SWIFT IN HIS JUSTICE.

AS YOU WISH.

REALLY, STARSCREAM. I'M TOUCHED YOU'D REMAIN SO OBSEQUIOUS EVEN AFTER MY DEATH.

NO...

BUT THEN STARSCREAM DISCOVERED THAT WHAT HE HAD SEEN WAS ONLY AN ABANDONED CARAPACE.

...FROM WHICH SOMETHING MUCH MORE HORRIBLE HAD EMERGED

THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CHANGES WHILE YOUR ATTENTION HAS BEEN ELSEWHERE.

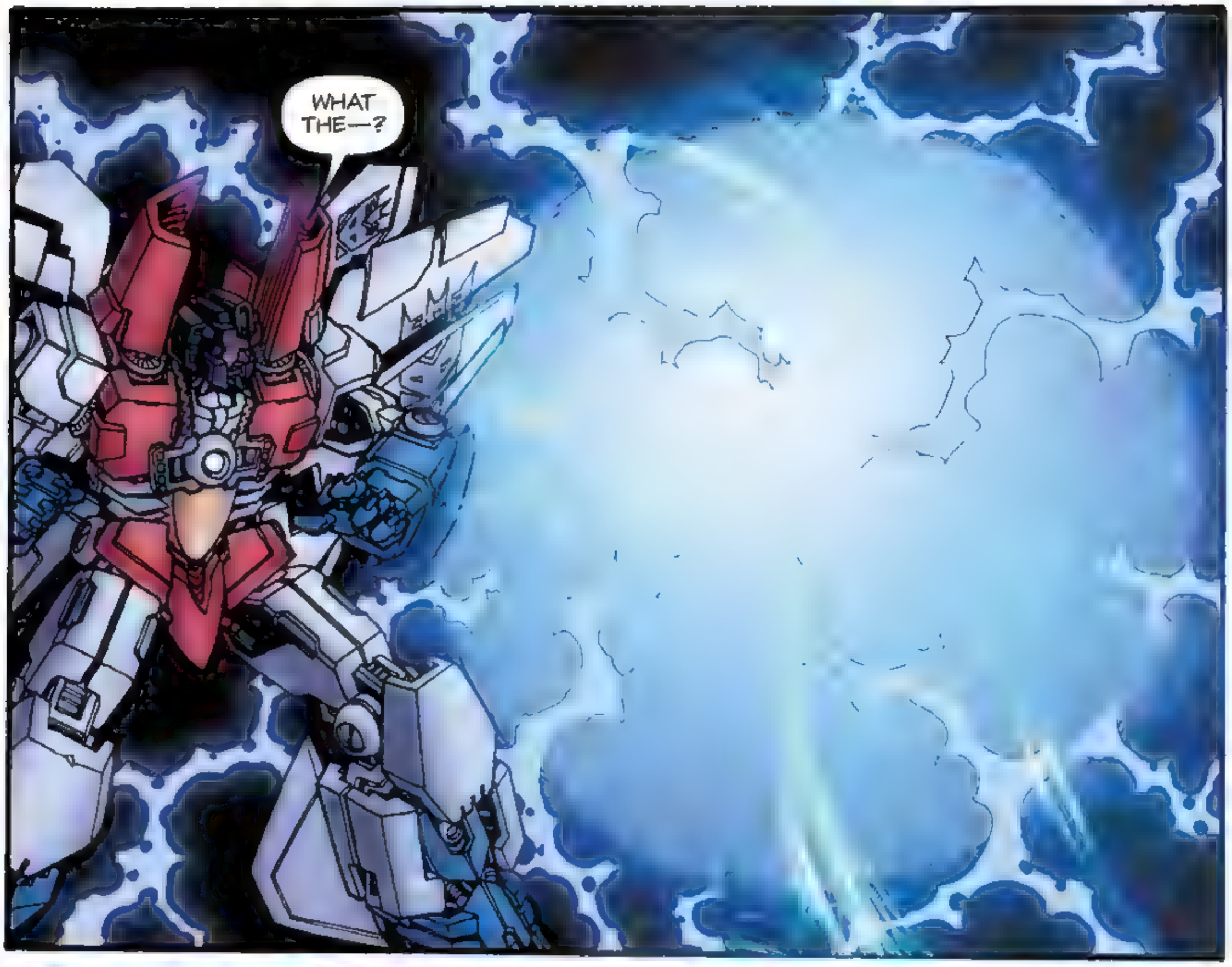
YOU DON'T SEEM AS SURPRISED TO SEE ME AS I'D HOPED.

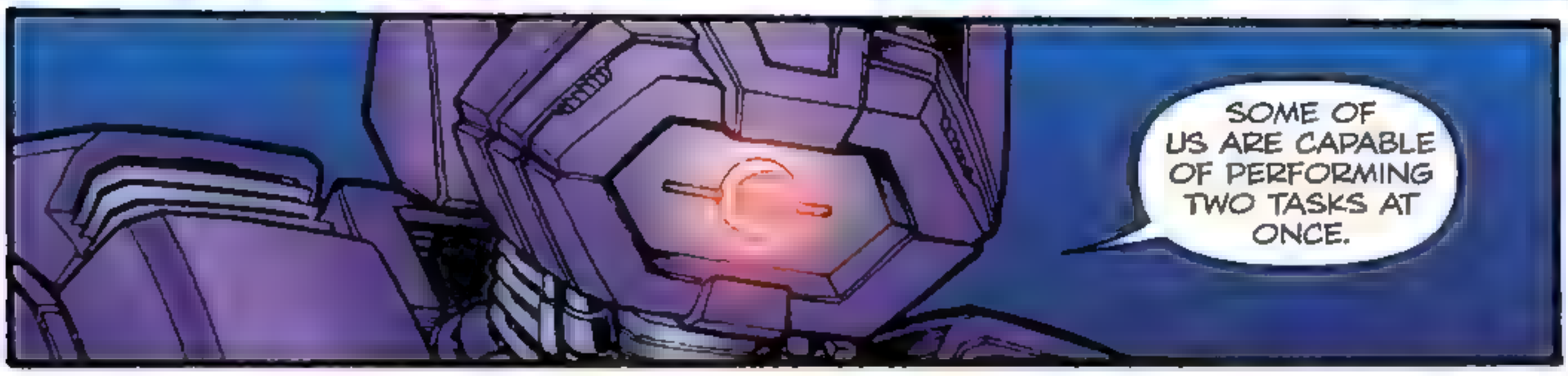
YOU'RE BACK. I KNEW YOU WOULD BE... EVENTUALLY.

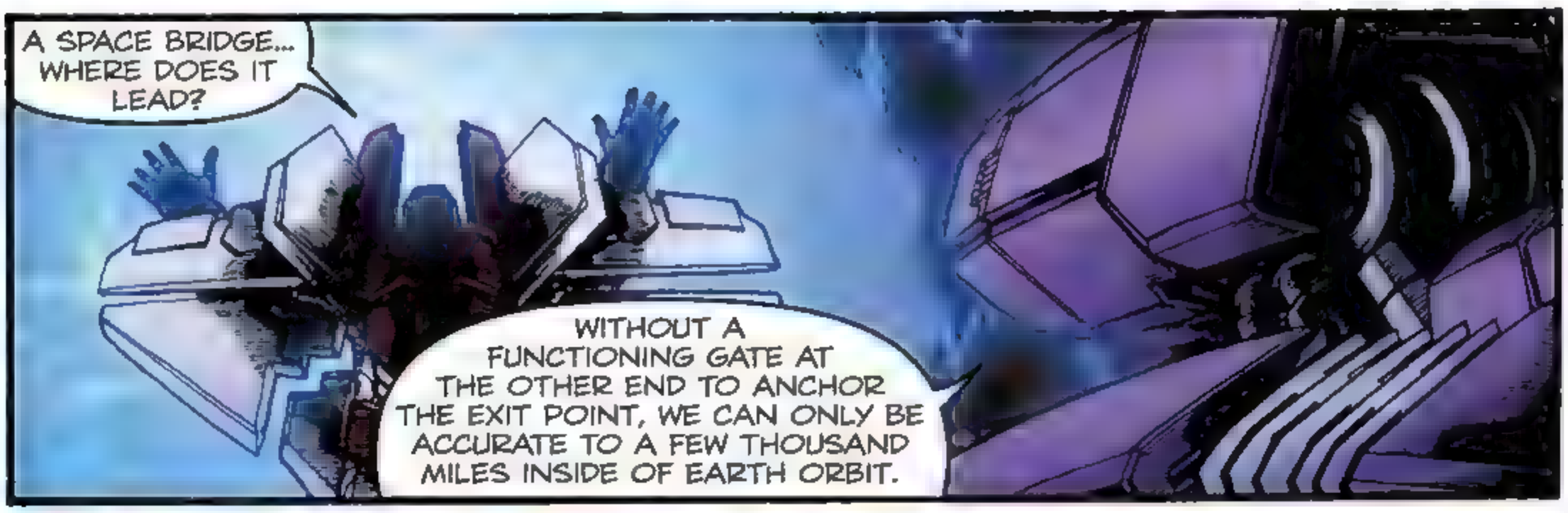
I JUST DIDN'T THINK THESE *IDIOTS* WOULD REBUILD YOU AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR *ONLY WAY OFF THIS ASTEROID.*

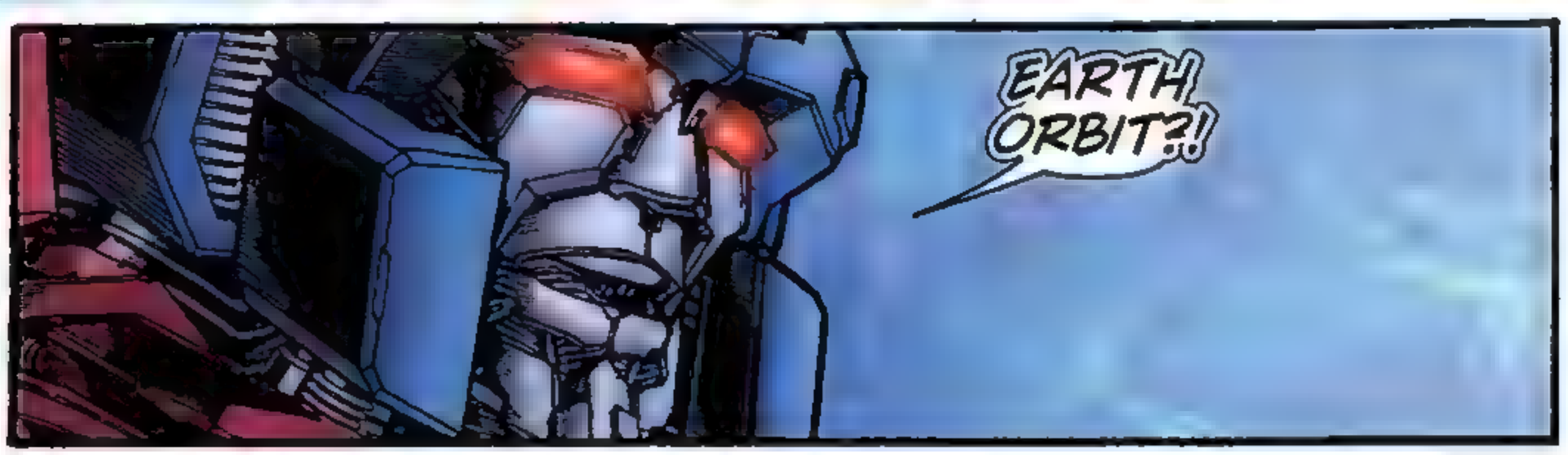
THEY'VE REVIVED YOU TO BE A PRISONER HERE WITH THE REST OF US, SO THE JOKE IS ON *YOU.*

YES. MOST AMUSING.


WHAT THE—?


SOME OF US ARE CAPABLE OF PERFORMING TWO TASKS AT ONCE.


A SPACE BRIDGE... WHERE DOES IT LEAD?
WITHOUT A FUNCTIONING GATE AT THE OTHER END TO ANCHOR THE EXIT POINT, WE CAN ONLY BE ACCURATE TO A FEW THOUSAND MILES INSIDE OF EARTH ORBIT.


EARTH ORBIT?!

MEGATRON SENSED THAT THE COLD FEAR THAT UNCOILED AT THE BASE OF STARSCREAM'S SPINE WOULD BE QUICK TO WARM INTO ANGER.

AND HE KNEW THAT SO LONG AS STARSCREAM HELD THE MATRIX, PROCEEDING AGAINST HIS WISHES WOULD BE A DELICATE OPERATION.

DESPITE STARSCREAM'S BOASTS, THE FUNCTION OF THAT LUDICROUS DEVICE WAS STILL UNKNOWN.

AND MEGATRON'S CUNNING ALWAYS RECOGNIZED THE UNKNOWN FOR WHAT IT WAS: A POTENTIAL THREAT.

BUT THEN SOMETHING LUCKY HAPPENED.

AND MEGATRON WAS ALSO SAVVY ENOUGH TO ALWAYS CAPITALIZE ON OPPORTUNITY.

THE STARS THAT SHONE DOWN COULD HAVE DIED OUT THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO. THEIR PINPRICK LIGHTS ARE THE LAST SAD ECHOES FROM WORLDS VANISHED OR DESTROYED.

MEGATRON LOOKED OUT AT A UNIVERSE OF DEATH...

...AND SMILED.

I AM READY NOW, SOUNDWAVE. PREPARE THE SPACE BRIDGE.

FOUR OF EARTH'S MONTHS. NO LATER.

I'VE PROGRAMMED THE PAYLOAD TO LAND IN AN AREA ISOLATED FROM THE LARGER GOVERNMENTS...

...BUT POPULATED BY A CULTURE THAT WILL KNOW HOW TO DISTRIBUTE IT FOR MAXIMUM CHAOS.

AND EVERYTHING HE USED TO BE—ALL THE WEAKNESS, ALL THE FAILURE, EVERYTHING SHOPWORN AND OLD—WAS PUSHED INTO OBLIVION.

ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND MILES ABOVE EARTH, THE PAYLOAD CHECKED IT'S OWN VECTOR. IT PLACED ITSELF ON A DETERIORATING ORBIT

THEN THE HIGHER SYSTEMS SHUT DOWN. ANYTHING THAT MIGHT LEAVE AN ENERGY SIGNATURE TO REGISTER ON EARLY DETECTION SYSTEMS THOSE HUMANS MIGHT HAVE BUILT.

DOOM CAME TO EARTH, BURNING AS IT FELL

AND WHEN THE FIRST POOR, OPPRESSED, AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE INVESTIGATED HIS LANDING SIGHT. THE FIRST THING THEY FOUND...

WERE GUNS

WITHIN FIVE WEEKS, THE FIRST OF HIS COMPONENTS HAD REACHED AMERICA. SHIPPED IN BY AN ENTHUSIASTIC COLLECTOR.

ONE MODULE WAS MOSTLY HARMLESS. ONLY A SMALL PIECE OF HIS CONSCIOUSNESS RESIDED IN EACH ONE.

"What Can You Do When Your Government Doesn't Do Enough?"

AS PEOPLE'S PARANOIA INCREASED, THEY SOUGHT OUT MORE WAYS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

AND SO HIS AWARENESS GREW CONCURRENT WITH THE RISING DESIRE FOR SAFETY.

UNTIL A NEURAL NET STRETCHED ACROSS THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST, COMPOSED OF ENOUGH COMPONENTS FOR HIM TO REACH OUT...

AND TOUCH SOMEONE.

YOU SHOULD USE IT.

THE VOICE ONLY TALKED TO JOE GLADKI WHEN HIS FAMILY WASN'T AROUND. AFTER THE FIRST DAY, HE BEGAN TURNING OFF, THEN EVEN UNPLUGGING, THE TELEVISION AND RADIO. UNPLUGGING THEM WAS THE ONLY THING THAT WORKED.

HE COULDN'T EVEN LAST 24 HOURS UNTIL HE PLUGGED THEM IN AGAIN, OUT OF CURIOSITY. HE WAS NOT CRAZY.

DNN

THE VOICE WAS AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE. IT TOLD HIM IT WAS A SCIENTIST FROM A FAR-OFF WORLD THAT HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY GIANT MACHINES. THE SAME MACHINES THAT HAVE COME HERE, TO THIS PLANET.

THE VOICE TOLD HIM TO USE THE GUN. IT TOLD HIM HOW TO PLUG IT INTO THE CIGARETTE LIGHTER IN HIS CAR. ONCE HE DID THAT, THE CAR DROVE ITSELF TO WHERE HE NEEDED TO BE.

AFTER THAT, EVERYTHING WAS JUST SO NATURAL. IT WAS THE ONLY OPTION THAT MADE SENSE. IT WAS AS IF JOE, FILLED WITH HIS PURPOSE, HAD BECOME A MACHINE HIMSELF.

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. WHY DIDN'T THEY TAKE MEGATRON WITH THEM?

THEY RAID THE HOLDING CELLS... THEY EVEN TAKE AWAY A DECEPTICON THAT HAS DIED... BUT THEY DON'T TAKE MEGATRON.

I DON'T LIKE IT.

ALSO, THEY DIDN'T TRY TO KILL US. WHY NOT FINISH US OFF?

IT'S OBVIOUSLY A TRAP. WE NEED TO GET RID OF HIM RIGHT NOW. THIS IS NOT GOING TO HOLD HIM.

SCHWALBE! HOW SURE ARE YOU ABOUT THESE NEW SUPPRESSORS YOU HAVE?

^€^€#

THAT GUY IS REALLY A JERK.

ONE THING IS FOR CERTAIN, WE'RE NOT SAFE HERE ANYMORE. WE HAVE TO EVACUATE.

SIR, THIS BASE'S CURRENT SENIOR OFFICER IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION DOWNSTAIRS.

IT WOULD PROBABLY BE DANGEROUS TO MOVE HIM.

AND IT WOULD BE EVEN MORE DANGEROUS TO STAY HERE IF THE DECEPTICONS COME BACK.

THIS BASE IS CURRENTLY INDEFENSIBLE. WE HAVE TO REGROUP BACK AT OMEGA SUPREME. WE NEVER SHOULD HAVE STATIONED HIM SO FAR FROM HERE.

THIS FEELS LIKE WE'RE RUNNING.

MAKE NO MISTAKE, SOLDIER. PRIME, BUMBLEBEE, OUR MEDIC, OUR MECHANIC AND SEVERAL OF OUR BEST SOLDIERS ARE GONE.

SKYWATCH COMMAND IS TOTALLY NEUTRALIZED. WE WERE JUST ATTACKED AND BEATEN SOUNDLY.

WE *ARE* RUNNING.

BRAWN. I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME.

DON'T WORRY, MAGNUS. I'LL—

NO. YOU'RE NOT COMING WITH US. I NEED YOU FOR A SOLO MISSION.

—WHAT? WHY?

BECAUSE I CAN ONLY AFFORD TO SEND ONE AUTOBOT AND, FRANKLY, YOU'RE THE ONE I THINK HAS THE BEST CHANCE OF SURVIVING OUT THERE ON YOUR OWN WITH THIS SITUATION THE WAY IT IS.

FINE. WHAT'S THE MISSION?

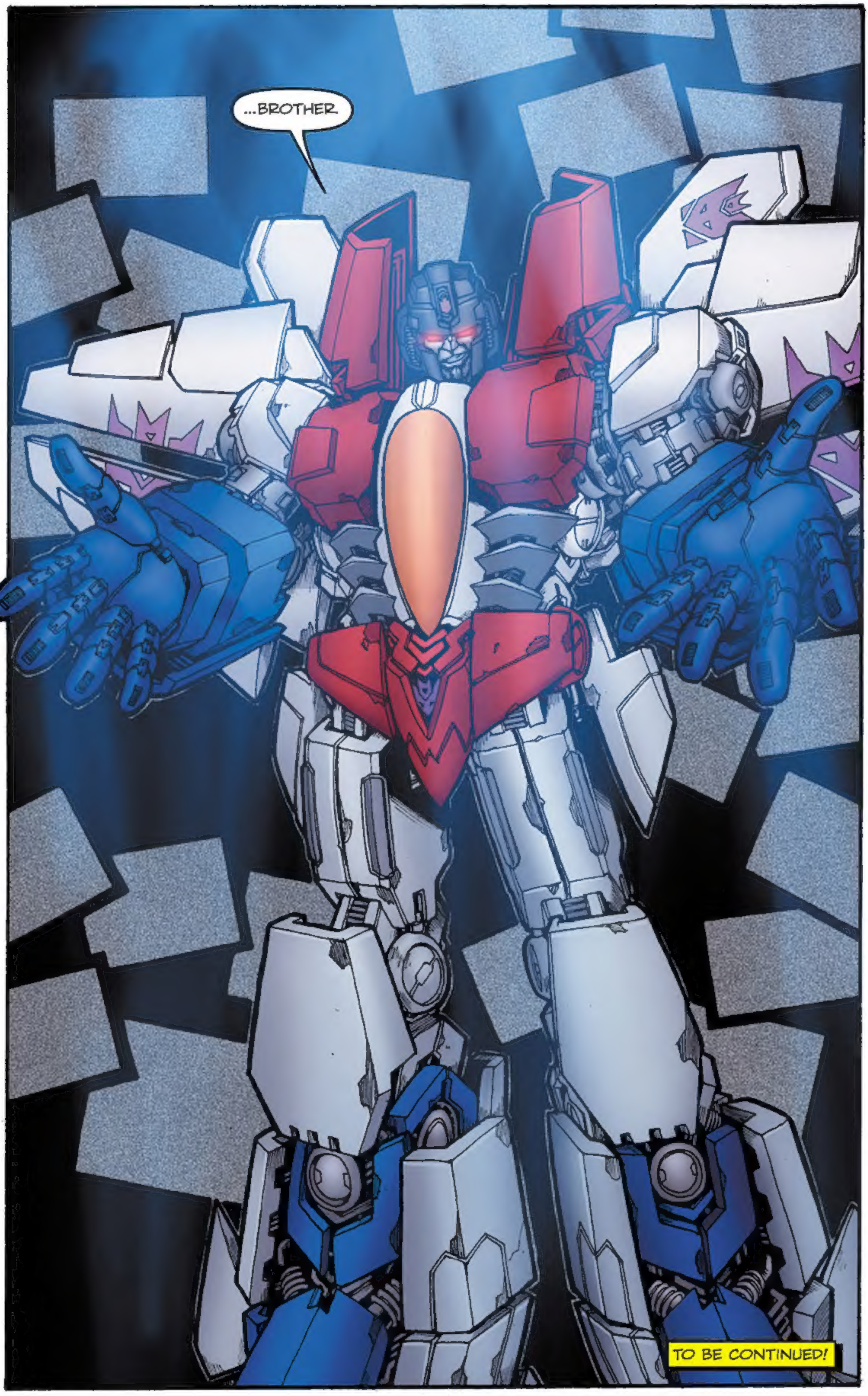
I NEED YOU TO FIND SOMEONE FOR ME.

LOOKS LIKE THE HUMANS FOUND YOUR HIDEOUT. YOU'RE TOO EASY TO LOCATE, THUNDERCRACKER.

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU AGAIN SO SOON. ARE YOU HERE WITH YOUR HAND OUT, TOO?

DO YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO HELP YOU AFTER WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME?

I CERTAINLY HOPE SO. OTHERWISE I WOULDN'T HAVE COME SO FAR TO CONVINCE YOU...


...BROTHER
TO BE CONTINUED!